



## **How to Live in Your Weatherized Home**

Congratulations! Your home has been weatherized!

A Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) representative will review and explain everything that was done to your home to make it safer, healthier and more energy efficient. You will be presented a document at this point, commonly referred to as a punch list or final building work scope summary, listing all the weatherization activities performed in your home as indicated by the energy audit that was performed. This document should only be signed at the conclusion of the Weatherization project, signifying the completed installation of the measures proposed and your acknowledgement that the work scope has been completed as agreed upon.

Once this document is signed, the project is considered complete. The WAP agency will explain / answer any questions regarding the measures installed and provide you with any warranty information and documentation if appliances were part of your workscope. Make certain you receive any warranty information and store it in a safe, accessible place. You should submit all required warranty cards / information in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Do so immediately (warranty cards are postage paid and cost you nothing to mail) so you can be protected from any possible issues or costs that may be associated with the appliances during the warranty period.

Should any appliances fail or require servicing while under warranty, please note that it's the manufacturer of the appliance who is to provide the warranted service, not the WAP agency; by Federal program guidelines, they are barred from performing any additional Weatherization funded work at the location once the unit / building is presented as complete and certified, so make certain you follow the manufacturer's recommendations for maintenance and warranty work.

Now that your home has been made safer and more energy efficient, it's up to you to continue to keep your dwelling safe, healthy and your energy usage low to make the most of the work that's been done. Following Weatherization most people or families can save even more on their energy bills through simple, common sense approaches to energy conservation. Here are a few tips from the WAP to help you with that important (and cost saving) undertaking:

- **Lighting:**

- Try to utilize Energy Star-qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). CFLs cost more initially, but switching saves about \$30 over each bulb's lifetime. By changing five bulbs, you can save \$150.
- CFLs also produce about 75 percent less heat, so they can cut home cooling costs.



- Because they last up to 10 times longer than standard incandescent bulbs, you won't have to replace CFLs as frequently; sometimes for 7 years or more.
- Keep bulbs clean – Dust can cut light output by as much as 25 percent.
- Open your curtains to let in daylight.
- And remember, one of the most effective ways to conserve electricity is to turn off your lights when you're not using them!
- **Heating:**
  - Turn your thermostat down five degrees – Each degree saves about 2 percent on your heating bill. Five degrees would save about \$100 on a \$1,000 annual heating bill.
  - If you have a programmable thermostat, use it to automatically control (lower) the heat when you're not at home and overnight, while you're sleeping.
  - Use drapes – Where windows face the sun, keep the drapes open in the day. Close all the drapes at night. This lets the sun heat your home during the day and reduces drafts at night.
  - Make sure heat can get into the room – Keep furniture and drapes from blocking radiators, heating registers, and return vents.
  - Your Weatherization agency has tuned up and inspected your furnace or boiler, however, an oil-burning heating appliance should be checked once a year and gas-burning appliances should be checked every two or three years. This can save up to 10 percent on your heating costs.
- **Appliances:**
  - Clothes Washer
    - Wash laundry in cold water – Ninety percent of the energy used by washing machines is for hot water, so washing on the cold cycle will save energy and money.
    - Wash and dry only full loads – You use about the same amount of water whether you wash a full load or just one item.
  - Clothes Dryer
    - Check and clean the lint filter before and after every load – clogged filters drive up drying time and costs, and they are a fire hazard.
  - Dish Washer
    - If you have a dishwasher, wash only full loads – It costs exactly the same to wash one dish as a whole load.



- Air-dry dishes – If the dishwasher has an air-dry feature, use it.
- Use energy-saving cycles whenever possible.
- Air conditioner
  - Close shades and windows during the day – Use the auto fan setting.
  - If you have a programmable thermostat and have central air, make sure it's programmed to automatically turn back the cooling when you are not at home and when you are sleeping.
  - Clean filters – Air conditioner filters should be checked monthly or as recommended by the manufacturer. They must be cleaned or replaced as needed, or as recommended by the manufacturer.
- Refrigerator
  - Always try to cover and wrap food – Uncovered foods and liquids release moisture, which makes the fridge work harder, using more energy.
  - Decide what you want from the refrigerator before you open the door – Every time the door is opened, cool air escapes and that's wasted energy.
  - Defrost manual-defrost refrigerators – Frost makes these models less energy efficient and spoils food, wasting both energy and money.
- Stove / Oven
  - Use the smallest pans possible – It takes less energy to heat them.
  - Use lids – They help to cook the food quicker by keeping the steam in the pot or pan.
  - Keep the inside of your oven clean – It will cook your food more efficiently.
  - Clean the burner pans on your stove – When clean, they reflect heat back up to pots and pans.
  - Keep conventional oven preheating to a minimum – Only preheat if you are baking bread or pastries.
  - Keep racks clear – Foil on oven shelves blocks heat and costs money.
  - Don't peek – You lose heat every time you open the door or lift the lid.

If a heating or cooling appliance is installed as part of your Weatherization work scope, it will be a highly efficient Energy Star rated unit or its equivalent. Energy Star qualified products meet strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy. If you are planning on purchasing appliances in the future you should consider



energy efficient appliances; call toll free at [1-888-782-7937](tel:1-888-782-7937), or go to [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov), for a complete list of Energy Star products and additional home energy conservation information.

#### Need Help Paying Your Bills?

New York State has programs to help families pay or lower their energy bills. Check with your local Department of Social Services, or in NYC the Human Resources Administration, to see if you are eligible for additional assistance, the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) web page ([www.otda.ny.gov/programs/heap](http://www.otda.ny.gov/programs/heap)) or call the National Help Line for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program at [1-866-674-6327](tel:1-866-674-6327).